

BOSTON, Feb. 1 (R)—Senator Edward Kennedy today said the Carter administration of generating war hysteria over moves towards the Gulf area. Mr. Kennedy, who appears to be leading the president badly in their race to become the Democratic Party's presidential candidate this year, said the United States seemed unable to find the support it needed from its allies, Japan, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries to counter the Soviet threat. He was commenting on remarks made in Washington yesterday by Presidential envoy Clark Clifford, who said: "The (Soviet Union) must know that if part of their plan is to move towards the Gulf that means war." Today Mr. Kennedy said in a television interview: "I am strongly opposed to unilateral moves by the United States in that part of the world." He added: "We have vital interests and they must be secured. But that kind of talk is getting us very close to a war-type of hysteria."

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جيراردان فينيزي يومية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأرمنية "الرأي"

SIDON, Lebanon, Feb. 1 (R) — An area near Tyre, where U.N. Fijian troops are deployed, came under artillery fire from Israeli-backed rightist militias today in the southern border strip, official sources said. The sources said Maalich, about eight kilometres south of Tyre, and nearby Ras El Ain were bombarded for about 30 minutes, but no casualties were reported. Intermittent artillery exchanges took place between rightists entrenched in Marjayoun and Kleya and Palestinian commandos and their leftist allies in the central sector stronghold of Amoun. According to the same sources, losses were confined to material damage. Earlier today, Israeli planes made several reconnaissance flights over the southern coast, drawing anti-aircraft fire while flying over Sidon. The planes flew over Beirut, the capital, yesterday and were met with heavy ground fire.

**Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres
Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence**

Feb. 1 (Agencies) — A Palestinian man was stoned a synagogue in the streets of Hebron on the occupied West Bank of Israel in protest against a law imposed on the Sabbath after an off-duty soldier was shot dead there.

Troops broke up the demonstration and arrested several of the youths, the state radio reported.

In Damascus, Palestinian commandos said last night they shot dead the Israeli guard in Hebron in retaliation for provocations by settlers in Kiryat Arba.

A commando spokesman, quoted by the Palestinian News Agency (WAFA), said a Palestinian commando killed one of the settlement guards in retaliation for provocations by settlers in "occupied Hebron and its holy places."

The spokesman said that in reply the Israelis imposed a curfew on the town and arrested scores of people.

Earlier yesterday the commandos said they inflicted a number of casualties on Israeli troops during a bomb attack in Hebron Wednesday night.

LONDON, Feb. 1 (R) -- China and Zaire backed President Carter's call for a boycott of this summer's Moscow Olympics today while the Japanese government signalled its wish for an "appropriate step" in response to the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan.

In Kinshasa, the Zaire government announced that it will boycott the Moscow Games, following Djibouti as the second French-speaking African state to do so.

The chairman of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa said

last month that African countries could go to Moscow, but President Carter has asked for a world heavyweight champion (Chamara) and the world's best-known black athlete, the top Africa and drum up support for the boycott.

TEHRAN, Feb. 1 (P) — Hundreds of thousands of joyful Iranians demonstrated today to celebrate the first anniversary of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's return to Iran after years of exile under the now-deposed Shah.

The 79-year-old revolutionary leader is recovering from a heart ailment. Chanting slogans and waving banners, they marched eight kilometers in bright sunshine to the university to take part in Friday prayers. Less elaborate demonstrations were reported from other Iranian cities.

The Ayatollah spent 15 years in exile in Iraq and France. When he returned a year ago, the Shah had fled the country but had not been formally deposed.

The Tehran march recalled on a smaller scale the scenes of a year ago when up to four million people poured into the streets to welcome home their hero.

Adding Friday prayers, Tehran spiritual leader Hojatoleslam Seyyed Ali Khamenei described as "a great victory for our nation" the week-long Iranian demonstrations "overwhelmingly by Finance Minister Abul Hasan Ali-Bani-Sadr.

Informed sources said Mr. Bani-Sadr would take his presidential oath before Ayatollah Khomeini at the hospital next Monday. The 61-year-old Iranian leader, taken to hospital nine days ago, would be staying there for the time being to ensure his full recovery.

In Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark said today he understood prospects had improved for a resolution of the hostage crisis at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

He said he understood there had been fresh talks between the

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (AP)—Israeli President Yitzhak Navon today called Defence Minister Ezer Weizman's support for President Jimmy Carter's reelection a "grievous mistake."

Some Jewish fundraisers in occupied Jerusalem followed a series of protests by U.S. republicans as Democrats reported in the Israeli news media. According to press reports, the candidates registered their protests with the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and Menachem Begin aide to democratic candidate Edward Kennedy complained to Prime Minister Menachem Begin in a meeting last week.

Mr. Navon, in answer to a question, said: "unlike the minister of defense, I do not meddle in American politics. I'm sorry, it was a grievous mistake."

Mr. Weizman expressed support for President Carter during his visit to Washington last December. He called Mr. Carter "a friend in the White House" and said he hoped the friendship would remain for another four years.

His comment was angrily condemned in Israeli newspapers as unwarranted intervention in U.S. elections. The Jerusalem Post called it "a manifestation of political immaturity."

Feb. 1 (R)—Kurdish separatists have seized an agricultural farm in eastern Turkey's border zone and have prevented its wheat from being sold outside predominantly-Kurdish areas, the daily *Hurriyet* reported.

The Apocalar (Apo-ist) group is apparently named after its leader, Apo, although Apo is also Kurdish for uncle. It is a small, closely-knit leftist group, demanding independence for the Kurdish area of Turkey. One-sixth of Turkey's 45 million people are Kurds.

Although this is twice as many Kurds as in neighbouring Iran, the Kurdish question here has been quieter in recent years. But several secessionist movements were put down by the army during this century.

In another sign of Kurdish unrest, the government announced it had sent 500 Turkish flags to the eastern town of Diyarbakir, unofficial capital of the Kurdish region, to be flown from schools. "Because of ideological friction, certain schools did not possess Turkish flags," an education ministry statement said. Large placards carrying the Turkish national anthem had also been sent to the east to be hung on the walls of school classrooms, it added.

The statement appeared to indicate that schools in the region had either refused to fly Turkish flags or taken them down.

CAIRO, Feb. 1 (Agencies) -- Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil returned from Israel today saying the latest

round of Palestinian autonomy talks were "difficult" and Egypt and Israel remained far apart on a solution.

There is still no difference between the two points of view," he told reporters at Cairo airport.

Representatives of Egypt, Israel and the United States agreed in the latest round of talks in Herzlia to stop on the pace of negotiations with more frequent and longer meetings.

Mr. Kefauz, Egypt's chief delegate to the talks with the Jewish Agency last June for agreement with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, knew what some controversy will now lead but not an American move.

"The Americans have not withdrawn any proposal," he said.

He added his own view that the United States has been used by the Israelis to bring an end to the talks between the two groups, says from A. Khalil, adding that the Israelis are using the side of the United States as a pretext.

Cairo was seen particularly under the influence of the Egyptian press, which had been very active in the past few days.

Previous sessions have whittled away at peripheral issues until the negotiators have little left to haggle except the solid core of the problem. This is the gap between Israel's view that Gaza and the West Bank should be granted limited self-rule and the Egyptian plan for broadened freedom for the Palestinians.

Mr. Linowitz told a news conference: "Differences have been bridged. Significant understanding was reached on a number of issues."

Mr. Khalil put it differently. He told the news conference: "It is very clear from the communiqué that we did not say we had come to agreement on certain things we left others. What really happened was that we had a review of the powers and responsibilities question and tried to clarify it."

Mr. Linowitz later told a radio interviewer on the next round of autonomy talks would be held this month in Europe, but that it had not yet been decided where the meeting would be between heads of state of the three delegations.

Mr. Linowitz held a 40-minute meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before flying to Jerusalem to meet with Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat. At the urging of Mr. Linowitz, almost all the discussions yesterday and today were on an informal, hotel-room basis rather than at the full conference table.

The only plenary session was a brief wind-up affair for the benefit of television cameras.

Delegation sources said the main area of agreement seemed to be how to tackle the question of Palestinian powers and responsibilities.

The Egyptian prime minister of course, Yehoram Karmali, is asked for legislation to formalise and Egypt's participation in the 31-year-old Arab boycott of Israel.

Earlier in Herzli, the three delegation leaders emerged from the two days of talks on Palestinian autonomy proclaiming optimism but nobody was willing to say what progress had been made.

Mr. Linowitz told the press conference that his contribution had been limited to providing ideas rather than a rival autonomy model to set against the Israeli and Egyptian plans.

Mr. Linowitz has been expressing optimism since he stepped into the autonomy negotiations late last year. The Herzlia meeting was his first participation in a three-way ministerial session.

Dr. Burg said a further ministerial meeting would be held in the near future.

gates agreed to line up the few hundreds of agreement in this field, and to present options on these points in dispute.

Throughout all the autonomy talks West Bank and Gaza leaders have refused to play any part in them, saying that autonomy was envisaged by Israel as occupation under another guise.

Asked about this Mr. Khalil said: "Our position is that we are not trying to impose anything on the Palestinians. We are not speaking for them. We are simply

(Continued on page 2)

The \$26.50 price was \$4.00 above that of similar Saudi Arabian crude oil and today's price increase the differential between the two oils by 50 cents to \$5. The new Saudi price for Arabia "light crude" is \$26 a barrel.

The Iranian price increase follows two-dollar increases in the prices of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil earlier this week.

TEHRAN, Feb. 1 (R) -- Japan has officially informed Iran that it will resume work on a multi-billion dollar petrochemical complex in southern Iran within a few days, Iranian Oil Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashami said today. He told the official Pars News Agency that the Japanese ambassador here had telephoned him to ask for official announcement of the resumption of work.

customers. NIOC officials said. An additional three dollars a barrel premium would continue to be charged on the other half of contract sales, they added.

Iran was now producing more than three million barrels of crude oil a day, the officials said. But they would not give details of the volumes sold under contract. The estimated last year at about 85 percent of exports.

Iran normally consumes about 700,000 barrels a day of its crude oil in the winter, exporting the balance. An output of three million barrels a day at this time of year means exports of some 2.3 million barrels.

Iran raised its oil price to \$28.50 a barrel on the eve of the unsuccessful OPEC price-fixing conference in Caracas last month but Oil Minister Ali Akbar Moinefar said at the time the price was important for 1979 sales and prices would be increased in the new year.

per cent stake in the \$3.3 billion project at Bandar Khomeini, which was due to be completed last July. Construction work has been held up since last year's revolution here, and until now the Japanese have made no firm commitment on when building work would resume.

Mr. Moinfar said last month that Iran might seek new partners as Japan was unwilling to finish the complex and added that eastern bloc countries had off-

Following the lastunction of Archbishop Hrant Kinchadourian, former prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, who died in New York Sunday at the age of 53, the faithful kiss the archbishop's religious leader. The body was to be flown to Lebanon Friday for a funeral at Antelias, near Beirut. (AP wirephoto)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Mondays.

Advertising and subscription rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Fine weather greets year's second Arbor Day



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, smiles broadly Friday at the tree planting ceremony. (Photo by Ron Cathell)



Her Majesty Queen Noor plants a tree Friday west of Amman while Prime Minister Sharif Hamid Sharaf (far right) looks on. (JNA photo)

Positive attitude

WHILE THE United States, in the person of President Carter's special Middle East envoy Mr. Sol Linowitz, continues to nurture the sterile and hopeless bilateral Egyptian-Israeli approach to a Middle East peace settlement, British officials have been emitting some interesting, and vastly more satisfactory, signals.

Addressing the 18th anniversary luncheon of the Middle East Association in London on Wednesday, Foreign Office minister of state Mr. Douglas Hurd made a strong statement in support of Palestinian rights.

Western support of Israel's right to exist, he said bluntly, did not extend to support of Israel as an occupying power. The issue of Palestinian self-determination, Mr. Hurd added, could not be dodged; it was a question of Palestinian rights, and it required direct negotiations between those whose interests were at stake in order to achieve what he cited as the British goal as far as the Middle East is concerned, namely "a peace settlement which will enable all the peoples of the area to live not only in peace with a reasonable assurance of security, but also with their sense of dignity and honour satisfied." Mr. Hurd left no room for doubt that, when it came to organising "negotiations between those whose interests were at stake," the Palestine Liberation Organisation would have to be involved.

These are commendable sentiments indeed, and they show that Mr. Hurd was clearly paying attention in his recent swings through the Middle East, unlike some of his American colleagues, who seem to come to the area more to cajole than to comprehend.

We have stressed before in these columns our belief that Britain, of all America's Western allies, has the most significant and potentially most positive role to play in reshaping Western attitudes towards the Arab-Israeli conflict. This reassessment has been made more complicated by the U.S.-sponsored Camp David process, which disguises in the robes of peace an attempt to divide the Arab World against itself and perpetuate Israeli colonisation and aggression in the occupied territories.

Jordan had a chance this week to state its case clearly to the European Community when Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Qasem addressed the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. In that speech, Mr. Qasem appealed for "a realistic approach to be considered by Europe for the sake of world peace and security."

European leaders are undoubtedly worried by the present threats to peace emanating from developments in the Middle East region. There are signs that they are beginning to see clearly that a just solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in a way that unequivocally restores and guarantees Arab national rights, is the key to eliminating these threats.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 1 -- It couldn't have been a more beautiful Friday for Her Majesty Queen Noor to patronise a tree planting ceremony west of town today while His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, did the same at a site north of Amman.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Prince Ali and Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf at a site near the suburb of Marj Al Hammam. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature organised the event on a 30-dunum piece of land it has donated to the Ministry of Agriculture for use in the ministry's afforestation project.

Meanwhile, atop a hill near

Sports City, a swarm of children and adults braved the cold, whipping wind for a belated celebration of Arbor Day, a day set aside annually for public tree planting.

About 100 adults, many of them diplomats or top government officials, and scores of children -- too many to count -- clambered over the hillside close to Prince Hassan, who patronised the ceremony.

It didn't matter to them that Arbor Day was on Jan. 15. Two weeks ago, few people turned out for Jordan's 40th celebration of the occasion, because of nasty, wet weather. Though they went ahead and planted about 200 trees, the main ceremony was postponed until today.

Prince Hassan wasted no time in getting his hands dirty by quickly planting a Jordanian evergreen in a pre-dug hole on the hillside. As he hiked around the hill, a sea of children, security men and adults crushed about him, trudging alongside and flattening most of the 200 trees that were planted last month. But with the help of all those present today, some 5,000 trees were expected to be planted in an area of 254 dunums.

The occasion was organised by the Friends of the Children club, which is a club dedicated to helping children have fun in educational and creative ways. Appropriately, the club has only six adult members among its membership of hundreds of children.

Today's events took place at Yajouz, behind Sports City on the old road to Zarqa. The area is being used by the Ministry of Agriculture as an afforestation site. Scattered over the slopes are small signs with the names of countries, which indicate areas where different foreign states have planted some of their own

indigenous trees in addition to Jordanian evergreens. A glance over the area reminds one of the United Nations, and it did so especially today, when ambassadors or officials from seven embassies were on hand.

The ministry's ambitious afforestation plan is designed to cover 250,000 dunums in the watershed area of the King Talal Dam in five or six years. The purpose is to restrict soil erosion, which causes a damaging build-up of silt in the dam. The Yajouz site is within this area. Two and a half million trees are expected to be planted with the help of West German aid alone.

Arbor Day is a most appropriate occasion to hold such a ceremony in support of the afforestation project, for the day has become the occasion for impressing upon the minds of children the importance of forestry and its effect on environment. The special day originated in the United States, in the state of Nebraska, on April 10, 1872. It was meant to be celebrated annually as a public

tree planting day, and its popularity quickly spread after it became an official school festival in several states.

Since it originated, it has spread internationally, though on different dates.



Prince Hassan unwraps a Jordanian evergreen for a young admirer watches closely. (Photo by Ron Cathell)

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA)--His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, yesterday sent a cable to the Iranian president-elect, Dr. Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, congratulating him for being elected first president of Iran. In his cable the Crown Prince stressed Jordan's keenness on maintaining close religious and historical links with the Iranian people.

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA)--The Development Bank for Municipalities and Village Councils has approved a loan totalling JD 10,000 to the village of Sweisseh in the Amman governorate. The loan will finance the building of two primary schools for boys and girls in the village.

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JT)--The Jordanian-Saudi Arabian joint economic committee opens a meeting here on Sunday to discuss means of promoting bilateral trade and economic relations. The Saudi Arabian delegation, expected in Amman tomorrow, will be led by the Under-secretary of the Finance Ministry, Dr. Saleh Al-Umeir. Sources at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said the committee will discuss renewing the Jordanian-Saudi economic agreement and will review means of facilitating the transit of goods between the two countries. The Jordanian side in the committee will be led by the Under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr. Hashem Dabbas.

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JT)--The National Consultative Council holds an extraordinary session tomorrow to continue reviewing the proposed civil aviation law.

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA)--The Arab-European joint journalism seminar, which ended in Baghdad last Tuesday, has called for the exchange of expertise in journalism and for facilitating the flow of news and information between the two sides, the head of the Jordanian delegation to the seminar said upon returning to Amman today. He said the four-day seminar also urged journalists' associations in Europe and the Arab states to hold courses for training young journalists and do joint research work in the field of information. The Jordanian delegation represented the various journalist and press corporations in the country. Taking part in the seminar were representatives of 58 journalists' associations from Europe and the Arab World, as well as 12 international press agencies and 109 Arab and European notable guests.

Autonomy talks

(Continued from page 1)

trying to find a way for them." Despite the difficulties in the autonomy talks, it was understood in Cairo that Egypt had decided not to do anything that would give the Israelis an excuse for holding up implementation of the two countries bilateral peace treaty.

Of primary concern to Egypt, it was understood, was any possibility that the Israelis could hold up their withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula over the next two years.

To avert any such possibility by showing good faith, it was understood that Egypt had agreed to an exchange of ambassadors 10 days earlier than scheduled.

As a further show of good intention, Egypt will start talks with Israel on details of normalisation at an early date and not near the end of the prescribed time limit.

The two countries have already set up communication links and opened a land border crossing. In addition, Israeli civil aviation authorities are expected in Cairo at the end of next week to start

talks on setting up a regular air service between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

An earlier policy of delaying all these steps until at least after the May 25 deadline for the autonomy talks appears to have been scrapped. It was understood that Egyptian displeasure at the progress of the talks could be expressed in ways outside the scope of the treaty.

For instance, it was learned, if the Egyptian ambassador is temporarily withdrawn from Israel in the future, it would be a step that would express Egyptian anger, without requiring Israel to halt implementation of the treaty.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Anglican Episcopal)

Services in English on Sunday F at the Church of the Redeemer 1st Circle Jabal Amman)

8 a.m. Holy Communion
12 noon: Morning Prayer

ALL WELCOME

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'Jordan Thursday urged the European Economic Community to adopt a more realistic attitude towards the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan's views were conveyed to the Europeans by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem when he addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Jordan and the Arab world want the EEC to realise the truth about Israel's expansionist designs, which obstruct a just and comprehensive settlement and to free itself from the influence of Zionist propaganda. The Arab nation's call on the European nations to adopt a more realistic attitude stems from its conviction that the Camp David agreements do not bring peace to the Middle East.

What the region wants is a comprehensive solution that guarantees total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and a restoration of Arab Palestinian rights.

If the European nations genuinely want to contribute to a solution of the Middle East problem, they ought to be more realistic and to take an active role in efforts to achieve that goal.

AL DUSTOUR: Now and then we hear statements from European leaders indicating that our economic and social partners and neighbours around the Mediterranean Sea are really concerned with the achievement of a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But, despite these statements, Europe is not doing anything concrete to contribute to a solution.

Jordan, which maintains friendly ties with European nations, continues to explain the truth about the situation in the Middle East. Continual visits to Europe by His Majesty King Hussein and Jordanian officials, and those by European officials to our region further help to clarify the Arab stand and expose the Israeli aggressive attitude. Unfortunately, Europe continues to be politically misled by the United States and cannot adopt an independent stand that might anger Washington, its major NATO ally.

Europe must realise that its blindfold pursuit of its current policy, can only bring disaster to the United States and Europe together. If Europe considers its security and economic progress as being closely connected with those of the Mediterranean and Arab Gulf regions, its should not adopt the attitude of an onlooker while Washington persists in undermining Western countries' relations with the Arab world.

The European nations, though allies of the United States, should not condone Washington's policies in the Middle East at the expense of the Arabs and their legitimate rights and at the expense of peace and common Arab and European interests.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibition

The exhibition of contemporary graphic art from the centres of Hamburg and West Berlin continues at the Goethe Institute. The exhibition is running until February 2.

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 - List of contracts underway or completed by firm in the last five years of similar type of construction under consideration with brief description, locations or owner, total cost.
 - Provide name and address of firm's bankers or other credit reference.
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3. Prequalification data shall be submitted not later than 12:00 (noon) Feb. 20, 1980, to the Middle East Insurance Company, Cairo Amman Building, Shabsough Street, Amman (1st floor); or P.O. Box 1802, Amman; or Dar Al Handasa (Shair and Partners), P.O. Box 2292 Amman, opposite Musher Hospital.

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هكذا مكالمة

Damas-Scene

ed for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of Feb. 2 - 8)

EXHIBITS

FEB. 2: A one-man show featuring 20 etchings and paintings by Homs artist Walid Al Shami opens with a 6 p.m. in Al Sha'b Gallery. A 1975 graduate of the Fine Arts School of Damascus University, Mr. Al Shami has had six exhibitions in Homs and Damascus. In 1972, he initiated the first outdoor art exhibition in Syria with a display of his work in a garden on Abou Rumanneh Street. Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. daily except Friday.

FEB. 4: An exhibition of oil, acrylic and pastels by Palestinian artists goes on view in the Soviet Cultural Centre.

FEB. 7: Twenty-five pictorial essays by Italian artist eto will go on view in the Spanish Cultural Centre for one to Run Away, To Dream, To Smile" titles the exhibit of drawings. The artist is travelling through the Middle East looking in preparation for a book to be published in experiences from his trip are reflected in the paintings. A reception will open the exhibit.

OPENING: The second private art gallery in Damascus has opened under the name of Ebla Gallery, and 30 etchings and paintings by Mamduh Kashelan are on view. One of the of modern Syrian art, Mr. Kashelan was the founding of the Fine Arts Syndicate of Syria. He studied in Rome subjects of his expressionist works are the villagers and es of Syria. The new gallery is one block west of the hospital. Hours: 5 to 8 p.m. daily except Friday.

CONCERTS

FEB. 5: Syrian pianist Gaswan Zerikly will appear in at 8 p.m. in Al Kabbani Theatre. Works of Scarlatti, en, Schumann and Chopin will be performed by the graduate of the East Berlin Conservatory of Music, Mr. Zerikly is completing advanced studies at the Conservatory of Music. Tickets may be obtained from ascus Conservatory of Music, 100 metres west of the mbassy.

FEB. 7: Bach, Corelli, and Beethoven will be per- at 8 p.m. concert in Al Kabbani Hall. Artists will be Zerikly, piano, Riad Zukkar, violin, and Fayed Olabi, o. Mr. Zerikly is completing advanced studies at the Conservatory of Music. Mr. Zukkar and Mr. Olabi are s of the Moscow Conservatory and teach at the Damas- conservatory of Music. Tickets may be obtained from the Conservatory of Music, 100 metres south of the French

et pianist Valery Sagaidachnyi will appear in concert mist Edward Betovsky at 7 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural The programme will feature the works of Chopin.

LECTURE

FEB. 6: "Higher Education in the USSR" will be lecture by a representative from the Soviet embassy at 6 e Soviet Cultural Centre. The talk will be illustrated with des (in Arabic).

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMMES

FEB. 5: The French Cultural Centre will begin a series mmes dedicated to "The Traditions of France: Aspects the countryside." "La Tuile a Loups," Part I opens the 6 p.m. (in French).

SDAY, Feb. 6: Two short programmes on Cezanne and

"La nature morte de Breughel a Soutine" will be shown at 6 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre.

FRIDAY, Feb. 8: A dramatic presentation titled "Les Banquiers du Crime" will be shown at 6 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

FILMS

SATURDAY, Feb. 2 and MONDAY, Feb. 4: "Bartleby," a 1976 film directed by Maurice Ronet and starring Michel Lonsdale, Maurice Biraud and Maxence Mailfort will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

THE INDIAN embassy of Damascus is noted for giving parties with a flair, so it won't surprising that its National Day fete at the Meridien Hotel was very special. A crowd of more than 300 gathered in the hotel's exhibition hall where Mr. Mahmoud Hadid, Speaker of the Syrian People's Council, said a few words in honour of India's 30th year as a sovereign democratic republic. An exhibition of more than 100 photos by Syrian photographer Abu Sa'ada was then opened. All the black-and-white and colour blow-ups were taken during a tour of India by the Syrian artists.

As if this weren't enough, the guests were entertained by a programme of a qawwali songs performed by Indian singer Prabha Bharati, who was accompanied by six musicians. The Damascene audience especially enjoyed the songs sung in Arabic, particularly "Syria, My Love." It was explained that qawwali songs originated in India more than 700 years ago under the influence of the Islamic saint Hazrat Amir Khusro. The repetitive style of Sufi treatments was particularly noticeable in a religious song in praise of Allah.

Syria's new Minister of Tourism, Mr. George Radwan, was observed in the front row audience along with Mr. Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, Minister of Information, Mr. Khaled Fahoum, president of the Palestinian National Council, Mr. Mawaffaq Qudsi, chief of protocol, and Mr. Fawwaz Sayyagh, a member of the Baath Party National Command. Film star Ighraa made one of her rare public appearances and was seen chatting with Indian Ambassador A.P. Venkateswaran and his wife Usha who have left this week on a two-month home leave in India.

IN THE LATE 1950s, we all heard about the ugly American, but in the late 1970s, all that the beautiful American Syrians have talked about is Marjorie Roberts of USAID. Ms. Roberts arrived in Damascus four years ago and extended her tour after two years because she enjoyed the people, culture and country so much.

However, it seems retirement age has crept up on Ms. Roberts, who says: "Retirement is the most unpleasant word in the English language." She's reluctantly giving up her career in the foreign service which has included tours in Vietnam, Zambia and Swaziland — Syria has been her favourite.

One of the major reasons Ms. Roberts is termed a beautiful American is the way she takes her religion seriously and lives by it. During Easter week of 1976, she started a Bible study group which has since met on Wednesdays at her home. She was also instrumental in founding the first nondenominational Christian church offering services in English in Damascus. The group meets each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Damascus Community School.

The round of parties in her honour was kicked off with a catered dinner at the USAID offices where co-workers presented her with a mother-of-pearl inlaid wooden Arabic chest. Another dinner party was given at the Damascus home of Dr. and Mrs. Yassir Azem and their four daughters, Randa, Lina, Nora and Hassana. Prof. and Dr. Najib Jarjour also feted her with a going-away gathering while the Bible study group and church members bade farewell at a dinner party in the Mezzeh home of Samoco geophysicist Mr. Larry Beyer. The grand finale was a dinner

SUNDAY, Feb. 3: "The Reservist Hero" titles a film to be shown at 6:30 p.m. in the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre. A short film "For Example Corbusier," also will be shown (in German, Arabic sub-titles).

MONDAY, Feb. 4 and WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6: "The Wishing Tree" will be shown at 6 p.m. both nights in the Soviet Cultural Centre. (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6: "Other Accents" titles a series of films to be shown on five different dates in the Spanish Cultural Centre. Each of the colour documentaries was filmed by Spanish TV and takes an in-depth look into the culture, music, architecture and life styles of five Spanish-speaking nations: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela. The first of these documentaries will focus on Chile. All the films are being shown in conjunction with the Spanish and Chilean, Colombian, Argentinian, Panamanian and Venezuelan embassies. The film will be shown at 6:30 p.m. All are in Spanish.

FRIDAY, Feb. 8: "Ballmout" is title of a feature film to be shown at 6 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian).

Pat-Pourri

Thursday in the home of Miss Briske Loussarianian of the United Nations Development Programme.

Ms. Roberts officially said goodbye to her friends at a party which also honoured her daughter Carol Ann Coryell of Alexandria, Virginia, who has made her first trip abroad to accompany her mother home via Jordan, Egypt and Italy. Heading the list of VIPs were U.S. Ambassador Talcott Seelye and his wife Joan, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission David Newton and his wife Christa, and Mr. Miles Wedeman, director of USAID and his wife Martha.

Gaye and Dr. Louay Nassri chatted with Carol, a registered nurse and mother of three sons who has been commissioned to serve on the committee to organise celebrations of the 250th birthday of George Washington in the Washington, D.C. area.

Another crowd gathered around Dorothy Smith of the U.S. embassy to learn more about her Feb. 8 programme of opera appreciation.

SYRIAN ARTIST Bashar Issa had one of the most successful ever one-man shows at Al Sha'b Gallery last month. Now he's received more honours and a \$1,000 cash prize for taking second place in a poster contest in Beirut. The Centre of Medical Research sponsored the poster competition, which had the theme of Child Safety.

IN THE AUTUMN of 1978 Dr. Kassem Toueir of the Damascus National Museum wrote scenarios in Arabic, English and French for a documentary film on Ebla, the famed 3rd millennium B.C. site in northwest Syria. Last

autumn, Dr. Toueir made a lecture tour of 16 university campuses in the United States where he showed the film.

Friends gathered in the home of Gerry and Roy Stoez to view the first Syrian screening of the Ebla documentary. Unfortunately, a guest (unnamed) forgot to bring the projector, so party-goers instead viewed a series of slides on archaeological sites of Syria which Dr. Toueir had shown to American audiences. Among those sitting in were Bill Thompson of Louis Berger Co. and his wife Betty, Souad Kuzbari, Larry Beyer, John Howell, Richard Underland and his wife Joan of the U.S. International Communication Agency, and Paulo Renato Santos, charge d'affaires of the Brazilian embassy.

Two weeks later, another attempt was made to debut the documentary in Syria at Mr. Santos's home in Mezzeh. By this time, word had spread about the film and everyone invited showed up. While the frantic host tried to stretch a Brazilian casserole intended to serve 10 to 15, then 25 and finally 29 dinner guests—panic spread because the Italian (unnamed) who had promised to bring the projector this time did not make an appearance. SOS's were sent to various cultural centres in Damascus. Nearly all were closed, but the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre graciously lent its projector.

Alas, such experts as Archie Hogan of USAID and Bill Thompson couldn't make the projector function and a third date had to be set for the film. Guests at the impromptu Santos party included Joyce Donahy whose husband is a Fulbright visiting scholar in English literature at Damascus University. Clara Maria Montenegro of the Italian embassy and Robert and Avenel Thompson of United Nations

THEATRE

NIGHTLY: A Syrian version of Peter Schaeffer's "Black Comedy" is performed nightly at 8:30 p.m. in Al Hamra Theatre. Sara Dibsi and Hilda Samur star in the production, directed by Mahmoud Khadour (in Arabic).

** Upon popular demand, Duraid Lahham is starring in a re-run of "Cheers, My Country," performed nightly at 8:30 p.m. in the Federated Workers' Theatre, opposite the Meridien Hotel (in Arabic).

ELSEWHERE IN SYRIA

An exhibit of 54 photos by nine young Australian photographers is on view through Feb. 10 in the Aleppo National Museum. The photos depict life in the bushland and in the cities. The show will move to Amman later this month.

If you have items for the Damas-Scene column, please phone them in Damascus to Pat McDonnell at 336-658 or mail them 10 days in advance to P.O. Box 5601, Damascus.

Development Programme. Syrian film director Salah Dinby and his authoress wife chatted with Syrian artist Ziad Dabbi who will have a one-man show at Al Sha'b Gallery on Feb. 12.

Eureka, the film was at last shown on the third attempt at the American Cultural Centre, courtesy of Richard Underland. It was disappointing to learn that only an Arabic sound track has thus far been made. Nonetheless, Dr. Toueir sold two copies of the documentary in the U.S. and he is now preparing a tape cassette in English to be sold with future copies of the film.

Further information on the most concise and accurate film about the Ebla excavation may be obtained from the film director, Mr. Jamil Welaya at Mara'a Malik Adel Street, Damascus, or by phoning Dr. Toueir at 339-796.

"PATTERNS," a programme of poetry and prose devised by British actress Miss Maralyn Heathcock entertained many Damascenes for two nights this week at the British Cultural Centre. "Gust the Theatre Car" by T.S. Eliot seemed to be a favourite with the crowds, as was Amy Lowell's "Patterns," which Miss Heathcock says is a play in itself.

Slick little pieces by Dorothy Parker and a humorous poem by Thomas Hardy, "The Ruin'd Maid," were followed by highly entertaining masculine roles performed by the actress. In one, "The Farmer's Point of View," she became a gruff-speaking, pipe-smoking farmer. In another, she became a homeless tramp who sang "I Live in Trafalgar Square."

Greece, Turkey and Beirut were stops on this, her first tour for the British Council. After

Damascus, she was headed for Cyprus and then home. No stranger to the Middle East, Miss Heathcock taught English for one year in Iran after she graduated from the University of Birmingham and the Webber Douglas Academy in London. She admits to being "in love" with the Middle East and is happy to be back, especially to visit the souqs of Old Damascus.

When asked how she got her act together — 30 diverse pieces ranging from Shakespeare to a nine-year-old Victorian child's essay on love and marriage — Miss Heathcock said a professor at a Dutch university asked her three years ago to put together some literary works to aid his students to appreciate English literature. The programme was so successful that she decided to polish it and make it into a show for audiences everywhere. Those in Damascus definitely enjoyed it.

NO. THERE wasn't a blackout in Damascus last Wednesday. The reason so many houses were dark was that half of Damascus was at the Mezzeh home of Rajai and Maha Hakki — or at least it seemed that half the populace converged there. The purpose of the party was for friends of the Hakki's to say goodbye to the Hakki's lovely villa which has been sold to the British embassy as a residence for the British ambassador. Rajai and Maha built the spacious three-storey villa when there were less than a dozen residences in Mezzeh. It's a house designed for parties — Rajai and Maha planned each room with entertaining in mind. The Hakki's will still be seeing the residence because they've bought another, more practical, home on the same street.

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be cold and foggy in the early morning, clearing and becoming fine later in the day. Winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

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Tender and contract documents are available for JD 10 per copy (non-refundable) at the Jordan Valley Authority, Amman, Jordan, telephone 41472 and at Dames & Moore, 1626 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colorado 80402 U.S.A. telephone number 303-232-6262.

The bid opening is to be held at 12:00 noon, March 12, 1980 in the office of the JVA in Amman. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held in Amman on March 3, 1980 to respond to any questions raised by potential bidders.

Omar Abdallah Dokhgan, President.

Soviet withdraw from boxing tourney

JAKARTA, Feb. 1 (R) — The President's Cup International Boxing Tournament was formally opened last night with more than half of last year's champions unable to defend their titles. The Soviet team, which took six of the tournament's eleven gold medals last year, disappointed the Indonesian hosts by cancelling participation, apparently for political and diplomatic reasons. "We are sportsmen", said an Indonesian boxing official: "we always like to fight the Russians but this time our boys really wanted to try them out. We want to keep politics out of sports but we know why the Russians pulled their boxers out — they feared demonstrations over the Afghanistan issue," he told reporters. The Soviet embassy announced last week the Russian withdrawal from the tournament for what a spokesman said were "heavy commitments" at home.

The embassy announcement followed demonstrations by mainly Muslim student and youth organisations in Jakarta and elsewhere in Indonesia in protest against the Soviet armed intervention in Muslim Afghanistan. Now, 99 boxers will be competing in the 13-nation contest, which was opened by Vice-President Adam Malik. The Soviet withdrawal left the South Koreans, who picked up two gold medals last year, favourites for the seven-day tournament. The other competing countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Japan, France, Australia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Bangladesh and Thailand.

Englishman wins World Bowls singles

MELBOURNE, Feb. 1 (R) — England's 48-year-old maestro, David Bryant, won his second gold medal in the singles of the World Bowls Championships here today. Bryant sealed his triumph with a 21-16 win over Israeli Cecil Cooper and will play Australia's John Snell in the final round of the series tomorrow. Although the game cannot affect Bryant's medal standing, he will be out to protect his record — he has lost only once in 18 rounds, to Jersey's Arthur McKernan. Bryant said he hoped to emulate his first gold medal in Sydney in 1966, when he dropped only one game. Snell had a hard battle to maintain his second placing, two wins behind Bryant. Fiji's Oscar Raymond took Snell to 27 ends

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

before Snell finally won 21-17. Scotland's David McGill won three matches today to maintain third place — one win behind Snell.

In the fours, Hong Kong are joint leaders with Scotland. They are one win ahead of New Zealand, with Wales, England and Australia equal fourth, half a win behind.

Results in today's matches

Round 16, singles:

Papua-New Guinea 21, Israel 11; Wales 21, Jersey 11; Australia 21, U.S. 6; Guernsey 21, Malawi 10; Scotland 21, Ireland 12; England 21, Canada 6; West Samoa 21, Japan 10; New Zealand 21, Hong Kong 4; Zambia 21, Fiji 8; Swaziland 21, Kenya 11.

Fours:

West Samoa 25, Japan 12; Australia 25, U.S. 9; Israel 23, Papua-New Guinea 14; Kenya 20, Swaziland 16; Zambia 19, Fiji 11; Hong Kong 22, New Zealand 15; Wales 25, Jersey 10; Guernsey 27, Malawi 16; Ireland 16, Scotland 16; Canada 18, England 18.

Round 17, Singles:

Australia 21, Israel 13; Canada 21, West Samoa 12; England 21, Japan 11; Ireland 21, Malawi 11; Zambia 21, Kenya 11; Hong Kong 21, Wales 16; New Zealand 21, Jersey 7; Scotland 21, Guernsey 10; U.S. 21, Papua New Guinea 14; Fiji 21, Swaziland 18.

Fours:

Fiji 24, Swaziland 18; Australia 21, Israel 10; England 58, U.S. 5; New Zealand 18, Jersey 14; Zambia 34, Kenya 9; U.S. 27, Papua New Guinea 18; Scotland 21, Guernsey 14; United States 27, Papua New Guinea 18; Scotland 21, Guernsey 14; Hong Kong 20, Wales 13; Ireland 24, Malawi 13; West Samoa 21, Canada 18.

Round 18, Singles:

Ireland 21, Swaziland 9; Wales 21, Kenya 7, United States 21, Japan 8; West Samoa 21, Zambia 14; England 21, Israel 16; New Zealand 21, Malawi 9; Guernsey 21, Hong Kong 17; Canada 21, Papua New Guinea 11; Australia 21, Fiji 17; Scotland 21, Jersey 13.

Fours:

England 20, Israel 13; New Zealand 35, Malawi 8; Australia 28, Fiji 19; West Samoa 25, Zambia 23; U.S. 37, Japan 13; Ireland 21, Swaziland 16; Scotland 21, Jersey 17; Wales 19, Kenya 14; Papua New Guinea 22, Canada 15; Hong Kong 29, Guernsey 15.

Basketball roundup

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (AP) — Robert Smith, who once led the country in foul shooting as a collegian and has hit 89 per cent of his free throws in the National Basketball Association this year, had a chance to perform his specialty for the New Jersey Nets last night.

Smith missed the second of two free throws with no time on the clock, and it cost the Nets a 127-126 loss to the Nuggets. I just knew we were going into overtime," said Dan Issel, well aware of Smith's foul-shooting prowess. Issel scored 28 points for New Jersey before fouling out.

Elsewhere in the NBA, Seattle whipped Milwaukee 119-103, Atlanta turned back Golden State 111-101, in overtime, Los Angeles outscored Chicago 101-97, Boston defeated Philadelphia 114-103, Philadelphia turned back Houston 110-105, beat Indiana 112-102 and Portland nipped Kansas City 110-103. Gus Williams and Dennis Johnson scored 21 points each for Seattle. Johnson locked up the victory with two free throws with two seconds remaining. Larry Bird hit a tight game in the third quarter by scoring five points off two assists in a two-minute span as Boston scored points and pulled away from Washington. Bird would points and 13 rebounds.

Bobby Jones scored 15 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter. Philadelphia past Houston. The Rockets overcame a halftime deficit to take a 85-79 lead at the end of the third quarter. But in the fourth period, the 76ers, led by 9, outscored 16-5 during a four-minute stretch and went on to win. Williams scored 25 points, including six of the 11 in a put New York ahead for good, as the Kansas defense Ron Brewer scored 20 points and contributed a key play to lead Portland over Kansas City 94-93. Brewer's Birdsong as he drove across court with eight seconds left. Washington, who scored the winning point for joined in defense and Birdsong had to pass quickly to Smith who failed to get a shot off in time for the Kings.

14-year-old advances in tennis tour

SEATTLE, Washington, Feb. 1 (AP) — Fourteen-year-old Andre Jaeger, in only his second professional tennis match, defeated Sue Barker 6-1, 6-3 yesterday in action in a \$150,000 women's professional tennis tournament. Top-seeded Christ Evert Lloyd breezed past Terry Holm 6-2 to conclude the second round of singles play.

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سكاي جيت

At least 35 militants, hostages killed Spain severs relations with Guatemala over violent embassy affair

MADRID, Feb. 1 (Agencies) — Spain has severed diplomatic relations with Guatemala over the storming by police of the Spanish embassy in Guatemala City, the Spanish Government announced today.

The message will remain in effect as long as the Guatemalan Government fails to give a satisfactory explanation over the incident last night, the government said.

At least 35 people — militant peasants and their diplomat hostages — died in a fire at the Spanish embassy in Guatemala City when security forces stormed the building yesterday.

A Red Cross official said Spanish Ambassador Maximino Cajal Lopez and an unidentified peasant were apparently the only survivors of the blaze which swept the second floor of the embassy, where the peasants were holding their hostages after seizing the embassy earlier in the day.

As he was being led to an ambulance, Ambassador Cajal Lopez told reporters he condemned "the brutal and irresponsible attitude of the security

forces."

Spanish officials, who put the death toll at 37, said the security forces had received no permission to enter the embassy grounds.

Guatemalan government spokesman Carlos Toledo Villaman said the peasants, who had taken the hostages to protest against alleged repression by the army, had set fire to the embassy deliberately to kill themselves.

Mr. Villaman said the security forces had found "a plan of action of terrorists" inside the embassy detailing how the building was to be occupied and what steps were to be followed next.

He added that the Guatemalan Government had declared three days of national mourning for former vice-president Eduardo Caceres who died in the blaze.

Former Guatemalan foreign minister Adolfo Molina Orantes also died in the blaze, Mr. Caceres

and Mr. Orantes were discussing plans for a lawyers conference in Guatemala at the embassy when it was seized.

In Madrid, Spanish diplomatic sources said the embassy's first secretary, Ruiz del Arbol, and three Spanish secretaries had died.

Guatemalan officials said left-wing guerrillas had set off incendiary bombs when the security forces entered the building.

'Up to 60 nations' will back Olympics boycott

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (R) — U.S. officials are now predicting that up to 60 countries will back President Carter's call to boycott the Moscow Olympic games in protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

A State Department official said last night that 27 governments had declared their support for moving the games from Moscow.

"We now think that 50 to 60 countries—although not necessarily their national Olympic committees—will join us in opposing holding the games in Moscow," the official said.

The official also said that as a result of discussions with Canada, the State Department was convinced the Olympics could be moved to Montreal—site of the 1976 games.

President Carter yesterday appointed former boxing champion Muhammad Ali as his special envoy to seek further support for an Olympics boycott from black African nations.

A State Department spokesman said last night that Mr. Ali, who won a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics, would travel by government plane to Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Liberia and Nigeria.

Visiting Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser yesterday renewed his backing for President Carter's stand on the Olympics. He said he had offered the United States staging facilities at Australian naval bases to help meet the strategic challenge arising from the Soviet action in



ITALIAN VIOLENCE — Plainclothes policemen inspect damage at the Framtek subsidiary of the Fiat car company at Settimo Torinese, Turin, after a terrorist attack on Thursday night. The attackers "kneecapped" two workers, one of whom, a janitor, died later in hospital. (AP wirephoto)

Basque guerrilla kill six in ambush of weapons con

BILBAO, Spain, Feb. 1 (R) — Basque guerrillas today killed six policemen when they ambushed an arms convoy, the bloodiest single attack in the Basque country's recent turbulent history.

Police said the ambush, which raised the death toll from political violence in the region to 19 this year, bore the hallmarks of the Basque separatist organization ETA.

An explosive charge halted the four-truck convoy of the paramilitary civil guard on a narrow, deserted road. The attackers then raked the convoy with submachine-gun fire.

Police first said the gunmen had escaped with the consentment of three army mortars and dozens of grenades which were being transported for testing on a remote beach near the Basque town of Lekeitio.

But they later said the truck had been hit by a single shot. One of the suspects was found dead in a car. Police source appeared to have died from a grenade which hit his hand.

Police said at least 100 took part in the attack, firing automatic weapons and hand grenades.

It also threatened run-up to elections in a Basque regional parliament. Prime Minister Adolfo Salazar immediately flew to the attack scene to provide anger in the and police.

World New Briefs

South Africa to continue 'positive policies' for all population-groups

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 1 (R) — State President Marais Viljoen said today there were signs of better international understanding and greater tolerance towards South Africa.

Inside the country, there was a growing improvement in human and group relations, he said.

The president was formally opening a six-month session of the all-white parliament here which was expected to make further moves towards easing racial tensions by improving working and living conditions for the voteless black majority.

The president told members of parliament and senators: "It is heartening that, in the midst of disquieting conditions in the

international sphere, South Africa is entering a period of renewal and development."

This was a result of the recent implementation of "positive policies which will be continued in the years ahead to the benefit of every population group in the country," the president said.

He was referring Prime Minister Pieter Botha's "verligte" (enlightened) campaign to scrap so-called petty apartheid and give blacks greater equality with whites, while still stopping short of giving them the vote in "white" South Africa.

"Our country is on the threshold of renewed economic progress, in the international field there are signs of better understanding and greater tolerance towards South Africa, and in the country a growing improvement in human and group relations is evident," the president said.

Former French cabinet minister critically wounded

PARIS, Feb. 1 (R) — Former French cabinet minister Mr. Joseph Fontanet was shot today outside his Paris home and a group called the "Autonomous Revolutionary Brigade" claimed responsibility.

Mr. Fontanet, 59, was hit in the back by a single bullet as he unloaded his car shortly after midnight. He was in critical condition after a seven-hour operation.

He was labour minister between 1969 and 1972 and then became education minister until 1974.

An anonymous caller told a French news agency that the Brigade had shot Mr. Fontanet "for his work as labour and education minister." Police said they had not heard of the group.

Mr. Fontanet has not been in the forefront of French politics since President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing came to power in 1974.

After the shooting, he lay in a pool of blood for some time before being found.

His condition was so critical that doctors gave him emergency treatment for almost an hour on the street before moving him into an ambulance.

Another former French minister, Prince Jean de Broglie, was shot and killed in a Paris street in 1976.

Patriotic Front warns guerrilla war might resume over U.K. 'interference'

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 1 (R) — The Rhodesian Patriotic Front (P.F.) has accused Britain of interfering in the campaign for pre-independence elections next month, and warned that it might resume the guerrilla war.

P.F. representative Mr. Tirivani Kangai told the U.N. Security Council yesterday that Britain had invited South African troops to Rhodesia, thereby creating conditions in which free elections were impossible.

Mr. Kangai said the British had demonstrated bias in favour of Rhodesia's white minority and moderate black leaders, and added: "If no corrective measures are taken soon, we shall not have any alternative but that of continuing armed liberation struggle."

The Security Council Wednesday night began debating charges by African countries that Britain has violated the terms of an agreement, concluded in London last month, which ended the bush war and 15 years of unilateral-declared independence.

Mr. Kangai, a follower of Mr. Robert Mugabe's Marxist wing of the Patriotic Front, said the British had tried to bolster the "elite" of former prime minister Abel Muzorewa and Ian Smith. He said 6,000 South African

troops were in Rhodesia at the invitation of the British, and that they were being used to manipulate the political environment in favour of Bishop Muzorewa and the whites.

The P.F. representative said: "Their presence has created an atmosphere whereby free and fair elections are impossible...We feel that we are being sold down the river by the administering power."

The British delegate, Sir Anthony Parsons, said earlier in the council that only a few South African troops had been in the colony to guard the Rhodesian end of a bridge linking the two countries, and that they had been withdrawn.

Mr. Kangai insisted that the South Africans were still there in large numbers, some of them serving with the Rhodesian forces, and said they should be pulled out immediately.

He alleged that British Governor Lord Soames had purposely delayed the return of Mr. Mugabe, and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, to the colony "in order to give Muzorewa a head start in the campaign."

Mr. Kangai also said Lord Soames had blocked the entry of P.F. vehicles needed for electioneering, while allowing hundreds of new cars to be delivered

from South Africa to Bishop Muzorewa.

Zambian delegate Mr. Paul Lusaka criticised Britain for issuing a joint statement with South Africa about the South African troops at the bridge.

"As far as we know, the Lancaster House agreement does not in any way provide that Britain and South Africa would administer Southern Rhodesia jointly," he said.

As the debate continued, African states continued private talks on a possible resolution demanding the withdrawal of South African forces from Rhodesia and calling for "remedial actions" to ensure that all Rhodesians might participate in the elections.

The Queen spoke as she and the royal family finished celebrating Princess Beatrix's 42 birthday.

Prime Minister van Agt called on the nation "to give a birthday present to our new Queen by extending to her our confidence and the same affection which surrounded her mother."

Princess Beatrix is widely regarded as being a more dynamic, outspoken person than her mother, who won the hearts of the Dutch with her grandmotherly style and distaste for pomp and ceremony.

"She is still an unknown quantity for many Dutch people but in the coming months and years she will show a more prominent profile."

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Dutch cabinet meets to discuss arrangements for Queen's abdication

THE HAGUE, Feb. 1 (R) — The Dutch cabinet met today to discuss arrangements for the abdication of Queen Juliana and the hand-over in April to her eldest daughter, Crown Princess Beatrix.

Prime Minister Andreas van Agt briefed his colleagues on talks he had last night with Queen Juliana, who surprised the nation by announcing that she would step down on April 30, her 71st birthday.

The cabinet was due to have concentrated today on economic policy, but a government official said: "The ministers' minds are now obviously on arrangements for the transition."

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High-level Soviet mission discusses grain deals with Argentine exporters

Buenos Aires, Feb. 1 (R) — A high-level Soviet mission held talks with grain exporters yesterday following Argentina's decision not to support the United States boycott of grain sales to the Soviet Union.

The mission, which normally visits Argentina at this time of year before the grain harvest, was headed for the first time by Mr. Viktor Pershin, president of the Soviet state import firm Export Leb.

Informed sources said Mr. Pershin's presence showed the importance the Soviet Union attached to the mission's visit after President Carter decided to call a grain boycott of the Soviet Union because of its intervention in Afghanistan.

After four days here, will arrange for the shipment of one million tonnes of wheat contracted before the U.S. embargo.

The sources also said the Russians will negotiate the purchase of a large amount of maize and smaller amounts of sorghum and soya beans.

Argentina exported over one million tonnes of grain to the Soviet Union last year, earning \$240 million.

It was not clear how much maize the Soviet Union could buy this year because the harvest could be affected by a current drought in the growing areas, the sources said.

The Argentine grain board decided two days ago to lift a suspension of export registrations, in

effect preliminary export licences, on all cereals except wheat. A board spokesman said there was only enough wheat available to satisfy domestic demand.

The registrations were suspended on Jan. 7 following the U.S. boycott announcement.

Argentina pledged not to take advantage of the U.S. boycott to sell extra cereals to the Soviet Union, but refused to follow it, saying market forces would be allowed to determine the destination of its grains.

The government stuck to its decision despite a visit here last week by a special envoy of President Carter, General Andrew Goodpaster, president of the West Point military academy.

So far there has been no official response from the grain organising committee, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ignaty Novikov, to the looming threat of a boycott by the U.S. and possibly other Western and Islamic countries as well.

The Moscow attitude seems to be that the campaign for a boycott over Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan is merely bluff.

"Of course the Americans will come," said one Moscow sports fan.

Whether this optimism will be justified or not will probably emerge in the next few weeks. If there is real concern in Moscow,

the authorities are keeping it to themselves. Western embassies here believe a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan by Feb. 20, the deadline set by President Carter, is highly unlikely.

Another element which can probably be discounted is a Soviet counter-boycott of the Lake Placid winter Olympics next month.

Preparations are in full swing for Soviet skiers, skaters and ice hockey stars to take part, and the winter games are likely to see a Soviet diplomatic offensive to head off the boycott threat.

As far as the summer games in Moscow are concerned, Western calls to shift them from the Soviet capital at less than six months notice have an unreal ring.

Since Moscow was awarded the 1980 games by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1974, preparations have been gathering momentum, with nothing left to chance and everything outlined in minute detail.

If anything, the Soviet Olympics seem likely to suffer from an excess of planning, something not unknown in the Soviet Union.

Under Mr. Novikov, the organising committee has swollen into a small bureaucratic army, mapping out everything from the flavour of ice cream in the Olympic village restaurant to the

number of electric power points in the press centre.

Organisers have calculated that altogether some 29,000 people will be sheltered around by the Olympic protocol service, only a minority of them athletes.

In addition there will be 1,550 guides and hostesses, 8,250 administrative staff, 17,150 technical and catering workers, and several hundred other officials.

Not included in these figures are the half million visitors who will be in the Soviet capital to watch the games, about half of them foreigners.

On any given day about 200,000 visitors will be in Moscow.

Organisers of the games know that the size and complexity of the whole undertaking, and the advanced stage of preparations, makes the IOC powerless to order a switch of venue, even if it wanted to.

For this reason, the Russians seem justified in their confidence that the games will open as scheduled on July 19 in the Lenin Stadium, with President Brezhnev and the IOC's Lord Killanin standing side by side as the Olympic flame is lit.

But there could be some embarrassing gaps in the international line-up on the turf in front of them as the teams come marching in with their flags.

If the United States and other countries stay away, what will the effects be?

On the practical side, not very considerable. One hard-pressed group of people may even find their task easier—the musicians who are busy learning "The Star-Spangled Banner" and scores of other national anthems for the medal ceremonies.

Anthems will be played live by orchestras and not, as at most Olympics, recorded on tape.

In the Olympic village, a drop in the number of competitors might mean several hundred empty beds in the 16-storey blocks.

The accompanying absence of tourists from the United States and other Western countries may dent hard currency earnings, but there are unlikely to be any empty hotel beds or tickets for the events.

Hotel space in Moscow is at a premium. Though total capacity has been increased by half to around 75,000 beds for the games, the scale will be sleeping in converted student hostels.

As tickets to sports events are being sold with inclusive package tours, the likelihood is that the unused American quota will be shared around other countries which want to come.

If the American network NBC drop plans for television coverage, transmission to the rest of the

world will in theory be unaffected, but there will programme feeds from Japan and other re world.

But the absence of cans from the television centre of host of extra headaches.

NBC has brought dollars worth of equipment installation is virtual Overall financial Soviet Government cost are hard to assess.

In any case, the account on the C never looked large; calculations.

Far more important psychological and symbolic of a boycott.

In the Soviet Union sport are so closely c inseparable. The Olympic poster in a organised here last y athletes, but a s Brezhnev instead.

On the sporting l drawal by Americ would rob many ew interest.

But in purely poli withdrawal by Musl despite the fact that potential medal winn more keenly felt.

REUTERS